

Amendment Dated April 15, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Cable comprising:

at least two elongated elements chosen from [a] the group [consisting] of steel tubes [(1, 2)], optical fibre cables [(3)], electrical cables [(4)], and combinations thereof[,]; arranged side by side within a common outer cover [(5)] along the length of the line; and

where at least one of the elongated elements [(1, 2)] has a passive metal outer surface, said outer cover [(6)] allowing entrance of corrosive agent to the interstices between elements, [characterized in that] wherein at least one of the elements [(1,2)] with passive metal outer surface is provided with an outer layer [(1A, 2A)] formed of a material with open structure for water passage and having controlled thickness.

2. (currently amended) Cable according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein said outer layer is of fibrous material.

3. (currently amended) Cable according to claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein said outer layer (1A, 2A) is of woven material.

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4. (currently amended) Cable according to claim 2 [or 3], [characterized in that] wherein the fibrous material of the outer layer (1A, 2A) is chosen among synthetic fibres such as polyester, polyamide or combination of these materials.

5. (currently amended) Cable according to claim 2 [or 3], [characterized in that] wherein the fibrous material of the outer layer (1A, 2A) is chosen among natural fibres such as cotton or other plant fibres or wool.

6. (currently amended) Cable according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein said outer layer is of a non-fibrous material with evenly distributed voids.

7. (currently amended) Cable according to [one preceding] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein said outer layer consists of a tape wound around the surface of the said element with passive metal outer surface.

8. (currently amended) Cable according to [one preceding] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein said outer layer consists of a tape arranged longitudinally along the surface of the said element with passive metal outer surface.

9. (currently amended) Cable according to [one preceding] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein said outer layer has a minimum thickness of 0.1 mm.

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10. (currently amended) Subsea line according to [one preceding] claim 1, wherein
said corrosive agent [being] is seawater.